



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Arkansas*

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MURDERER CONVICTED OF BEING FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARM

Little Rock - Jane W. Duke, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas; and Grover C. Crossland, Resident Agent in Charge, of the Little Rock, Arkansas Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; announced today that Theodis Jordan Smith, age 33, formerly of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, was found guilty on November 18, 2009, by a federal jury of one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On March 13, 1996, Theodis Smith was convicted of robbery in Jefferson County Circuit Court. On March 19, 2009, Theodis Smith was convicted by a jury in Jefferson County Circuit Court for Murder in the First Degree relating to the November 29, 2005 death of his 3 year-old niece, Ladedra Daniels, and sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 25 years for that offense. As Pine Bluff Police Department officers investigated that crime on November 29, 2005, they discovered a loaded .38 Rossi caliber revolver near Theodis Smith's feet, and a New England single shot 20 gauge shotgun on the couch of the home he shared with his spouse at 6609 Jones Street, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. The federal jury found that Theodis Smith was guilty of possessing both of those firearms on that date.

This case is designated a Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) case. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal initiative aimed at reducing gun crime by networking local prosecutors and law enforcement with federal counterparts. Those prosecuted under federal statutes serve longer sentences partly due to the fact that there is no parole in the federal system.

"This case serves as a perfect example of the impact that we can achieve through Project Safe Neighborhoods when federal and local authorities are working together," stated Duke. "Under PSN, federal and local authorities work collaboratively in determining how to most aggressively charge and prosecute violent offenders who continue to possess firearms. In this case, prosecution of the

offender on both state and federal charges has served to take one violent criminal out of our neighborhoods for a long time.”

Jones will appear before the Honorable William R. Wilson, Jr. on March 19, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., for sentencing on the felon in possession offense.

Jones faces up to ten years’ imprisonment and a potential maximum fine of \$250,000 for the conviction of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Under the United States Sentencing Guidelines, the court will determine whether any sentence runs consecutively, concurrently, or partially-consecutively to Jones’s prior conviction for Murder in the First Degree.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Pine Bluff Police Department. Assistant United States Attorneys Julie Peters and Edward Walker prosecuted the case on behalf of the United States.

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